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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY Rumania

DATE DISTR. 16 December 1952

SUBJECT The Minski Lajos Cooperative Society

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REPORT NO.

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1. The Minski Lajos Cooperative which is located at 4 Calea Kanonok, Oradea Mare, has 500 members working in three shifts. In 1951 the turnover of the Cooperative was 470 million lei. The net profit was 80 million lei, but each member received only a few hundred lei of this sum.
2. The Cooperative produces the following items:
 - a. Milk cans from 60 to 120 liter capacity.
 - b. Wood-burning kitchen ranges.
 - c. Spoons of 20 different sizes.
 - d. Cartridge cases made of nickel instead of brass because of the shortage of copper. Matrices for the cartridge cases are provided by the Ministry of Light Industry. When an order is finished, the used matrices are sent back to the Ministry. Approximately 10,000 cases are produced daily. Production has been continuous since March 1951.
 - e. Steel studs for rifle butts. These have flat round heads with a slot across the center and are used to join the butt to the metal stock. Each butt has three studs, two at the bottom and one where the barrel begins. Steel for this purpose is provided in lots of 20,000 kilograms, from which 15,000 kilograms of studs are made. Production has been continuous since 1951.
 - f. Special boxes, 80 centimeters long by 40 centimeters wide by 40 centimeters deep, for the army. The lid has a ring, by means of which the whole box can be lifted. The lid is fastened down with a padlock. The walls and lid of the boxes are made of three separate layers of wood, asbestos and unbreakable glass. The rims of the lid are edged with rubber so

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that the boxes can be sealed hermetically. There are no divisions inside the box. The boxes are taken over by senior army officers who select ten boxes at random and put them, closed, into water where they remain for ten days. If water penetrates into a single box the entire lot is rejected. Ten to twelve specialists from Bucharest are employed on this work which began in January 1952.

- g. Steel ball races with a diameter of between 20 and 80 centimeters for ball bearings. The ball bearings are supplied by the Ministry of Light Industry and fitted by the Cooperative.
- h. Bakelite tableware.
- i. The Cooperative also repairs watches and radios and installs and repairs water equipment and electric wire.
- 3. Milk cans, kitchen ranges, and tableware go to consumers' cooperatives and state stores. Cartridge cases, studs for rifle butts, military boxes, and ball-bearings are sent to the Ministry of Light Industry under various code numbers through state forwarding companies.
- 4. Since December 1951 the Cooperative has not been able to obtain any raw materials for its current production and has been forced to collect iron, nickel and copper scrap. Bakelite production has ceased entirely. Raw materials for the production of special orders are supplied by the Ministry of Light Industry. Nickel for the cartridge cases comes in sheets two millimeters thick.
- 5. The mechanical workshop has from 25 to 30 old presses of Soviet manufacture. These machines belong to the Ministry, and the Cooperative is sometimes ordered to send one of them to another factory. There are four coke-burning furnaces in the foundry where the steel for the ball races is heated and cast.
- 6. The president of the Cooperative is a certain Victorovici.

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